

Appl. No.: 10/822,959
Response dated 03/01/2005
Reply to Office action of December 16, 2004

The key holder 200 is in the form of a removable ring 200 that is fabricated of a thermoplastic elastomer "that is not only easily removable but provides a moisture seal around the remote control transmitter 101 as it grips the remote control transmitter's 101 exterior edge," as described at column 2, lines 26-30 of Kendel. As can be seen from Figures 2A, 2B and 3 of Kendel, the key holder 200 includes a circular band that has a relatively broad width compared to a very narrow thickness. When assembled, the circular band of the key holder 200 has an inner surface of its broad width extending around and in contact with the remote control transmitter 101. The narrow thickness of the circular band extends a small amount outwardly from the remote control transmitter.

Claims 1 of the present application describes a grip flange with a body configured for attachment to the mobile station and a peripheral edge extending at least partially around the body wherein at least a portion of the body is configured for attachment to the housing of the mobile station so as to allow the mobile station to be carried by gripping the grip flange.

Kendel discloses a key holder 200 that holds a key and secures the key to a remote control transmitter 101, but does not provide a grip flange that acts as a hand grip for a mobile station. The circular band extends outwardly from the remote control transmitter, but only by its very narrow thickness which is a small, relatively non-grippable amount. In Claim 1 of the present invention, however, the peripheral edge of the grip flange extends outwardly from the mobile station a sufficient amount for at least a finger grip, hence making the peripheral edge part of a "grip flange."

Kendel does not suggest that the circular band of the key holder 200 could have a sufficient thickness to be gripped and in fact only describes and illustrates preferred, comfortable gripping of the assembly by grasping the remote control transmitter 101 and not any part of the key holder. Kendel does describe the key holder as gripping the remote control transmitter, but not the key holder itself being gripped by a hand to support the remote control transmitter.

Further, Kendel teaches against use of a grip flange peripheral edge of sufficient thickness by describing the importance of not having a "bulky presence in the person's pocket," at column 2, lines 55-56. For instance, Kendel discloses a capturing feature 400 in Figure 4A that allows the key 103 to rest flatly on the remote control transmitter. One of skill in the art

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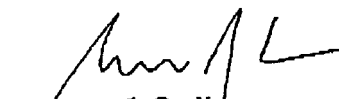
would therefore not be motivated to increase the thickness of the circular band of the key holder to provide a grip flange.

Kendel, therefore, fails to teach or suggest the grip flange with the grippable peripheral edge of the present invention recited in Claim 1. None of the remaining cited references, alone and in combination with Kendel, appears to teach or suggest the grip flange with the grippable peripheral edge for supporting a mobile station. Claim 13 also describes a method of using a grip flange with an outwardly extending peripheral edge to accessorize a mobile station. The remaining Claims 2-12 and 14- 21 depend from, and further patentably distinguish, independent Claims 1 and 13. Claims 1-21 of the present application should therefore be allowable over Kendel and the remaining cited references and the rejections of Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) have therefore been overcome.

In view of the remarks and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-21 of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,




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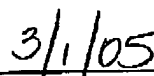
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